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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Huw M. Nash et al.

Art Unit : 1643

Serial No. : 09/373,018

Examiner : Unknown

Filed : August 11, 1999

Title : METHOD FOR PRODUCING AND SCREENING MASS-CODED  
COMBINATORIAL LIBRARIES FOR DRUG DISCOVERY AND TARGET  
VALIDATIONAssistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231Be  
5-26-00RECEIVED  
MAY 25 2000  
TC  
MAIL ROOMSUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

- DI  
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16. (Amended) A method for identifying a member of a mass-coded combinatorial library which is a ligand for a biomolecule, said mass-coded [molecular] combinatorial library comprising compounds of the general formula  $XY_n$ , where  $n$  is an integer from 2 to about 6,  $X$  is a scaffold having  $n$  reactive groups, and each  $Y$  is, independently, a peripheral moiety, wherein each reactive group is capable of reacting with at least one peripheral moiety precursor to form a covalent bond, and wherein said mass-coded combinatorial library is produced by reacting a scaffold precursor with a peripheral moiety precursor subset selected from a peripheral moiety precursor set, said peripheral moiety precursor subset comprising a sufficient number of distinct peripheral moiety precursors such that there exist at least about 250 distinct combinations of  $n$  peripheral moieties derived from said peripheral moiety precursors, wherein said subset includes at least two different peripheral moiety precursors that are each contacted with and can

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